

**Minutes of the General Assembly of the European Society of Arachnology,  
held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012 during the 27<sup>th</sup> European Congress at Ljubljana,  
Slovenia**

The President (FERENC SAMU, HUNGARY) opened the meeting at 16:00 proposing THEO BLICK (GERMANY) as chairman. This proposal was accepted. YAEL LUBIN (ISRAEL) took the minutes. The President then outlined the agenda of the meeting and started with the President's report.

**President's report**

The president presented a summary of the society aims: 1) supporting the European meetings, 2) supporting the attendance of students at the meetings, and 3) supporting European arachnological initiatives. The president continued with a short summary of the achievements of the society in the time since the last meeting, and other issues:

*Newsletter*

MARCO ISAIA (ITALY), who was elected in 2011 to the Society Council, is the editor of the Society newsletter. One volume was published in November 2011. The president encouraged extending the publications of the newsletter to more than one volume per year, and asked the members to send material to Marco.

*Araneae Spiders of Europe project* <http://www.araneae.unibe.ch/>

The society was able to support the project in 2012 (500 euro).

*Membership*

The President announced a new membership "policy" with tighter control of payments. The congress organizers should know in advance who is an active (paying) member, because many members claim reduced congress fees in registration. This should be possible to achieve thanks to the renewed database that was under construction by the new membership secretary (EFRAT GAVISH-REGEV, ISRAEL). The database indicates that there are 146 non-paying members, and only few members are paying the fees yearly. There was a slight increase in the number of paying members from 2011 to 2012, with 62 paying members in 2011 (44 regular fees, 13 student fees and 5 via other societies) to 69 paying members in 2012 (50 regular fees,

14 student fees and 5 via other societies). These numbers include only members who paid before the general assembly in the 27<sup>th</sup> ECA.

After the general assembly more members paid their fees for 2011 and for 2012.

Due to the high number of non-paying members, the council suggests the new "policy":

- 1) If a member does not pay during three years, his/her membership will be cancelled.
- 2) By 1<sup>st</sup> of February each year payments must be made (by bank transfer, payment via other societies or by sending the money in registered mail).
- 3) Members who wish to pay at the congress must pay one year in advance (previous congress).
- 4) Members that pay through other societies should notify the ESA treasurer and membership secretary of this payment by 1<sup>st</sup> February.

In addition, the President asked the members to update the membership secretary if there is a change in their address or email.

### **Elections to council**

The President reminded the meeting of the current council, six of them (underlined) retiring, but **four (bold) of the six were candidates again**: **THEO BLICK** (GERMANY), MARIA CHATZAKI (GREECE), **JASON DUNLOP** (GERMANY), HOLGER FRICK (LICHTENSTEIN), EFRAT GAVISH-REGEV (ISRAEL), MARCO ISAIA (ITALY), **CHRISTIAN KROPF** (SWITZERLAND), MATJAŽ KUNTNER (SLOVENIA), Yael Lubin (ISRAEL), DMTRI LOGUNOV (UK), FERENC SAMU (HUNGARY), AND **SAMUEL ZSCHOKKE** (SWITZERLAND).

Yael Lubin will be replaced as previous congress organiser by MATJAŽ KUNTNER, and MATJAŽ KUNTNER will be replaced as congress organiser by MARCO ISAIA (ITALY), although MARCO is an active council member, therefore six new members were needed.

The votes cast were as follows:

CHRISTIAN KROPF, SWITZERLAND (27)	GABRIELE UHL, GERMANY (16)
THEO BLICK, GERMANY (25)	STANO PEKAR, CZECH REP. (16)
JASON DUNLOP, GERMANY (25)	MIQUEL ARNEDO, SPAIN (13)
WOLFGANG NENTWIG, SWITZERLAND (21)	YURI MARUSIK, RUSSIA (10)
SARA GOODACRE, UK (18)	MATJAŽ GREGORIČ, SLOVENIA (9)
SAMUEL ZSCHOKKE, SWITZERLAND (16)	BERNHARD HUBER, GERMANY (6)

There was a draw between 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> places, but GABRIELE UHL and STANO PEKAR withdrew in favour of SAMUEL ZSCHOKKE, thus CHRISTIAN, THEO, JASON, WOLFGANG, SARA AND SAMUEL were elected to council. All elected members accepted the vote.

The chairman (THEO) then invited the meeting to accept the President's report, which was duly accepted to high acclaim.

The Chairman invited the Treasurer to present his report.

### **Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer (CHRISTIAN KROPPF, SWITZERLAND) began by reminding the meeting of the problem with closing the old account in *Paris*. The old account is based at La Banque Postale in Paris and cannot be formally closed at present, because the arachnologists currently there did not actually open it, and only the family of BERTRAND KRAFFT who opened the account can close it.

On 01.01.2011 there were € 371.20 in the Paris account and € 2883.36 in the Bern account, a total of € 3254.56. In 2011 there was no income in the Paris account from membership dues, and income in the Bern account from membership dues was ~€ 1220, € 1167.88 from **BAS** payments and € 52.50 income from interest, a total of € 1220.38. The expenses in 2012 included support of the meeting in Israel of € 1651.96, and taxes of € 8.6 on the Paris account, a total of € 1660.56. Income minus expenditure was thus overall a negative balance of -€ 440.18. Thus on 31.12.2011 there was € 362.60 in the Paris account and € 2451.77 in the Bern account for a grand total of € **2814.37**.

### *Auditors*

The auditors, PETER HORAK (AUSTRIA) and PETER MICHALIK (GERMANY), were then invited to comment on the accounts. PETER HORAK informed the meeting that they had received and approved the data and recommended that the meeting should accept the Treasurer's report. The Chairman then invited the meeting to accept the Treasurer's report, which was duly accepted to general acclaim. The Treasurer also added his thanks to the bookkeeper of the Bern Museum [R. MARKWALDER] who helped with details of the account.

### **Proceedings**

The Chairman (THEO) reminded those present that, following discussions at the 2009 general assembly in Greece, the proceedings of ECA 25, 26, 27 will be published in *Arachnologische*

Mitteilungen. The costs of regular issues are paid by AraGes, and only the differences between a regular issue and congress volume has to be paid by the ESA or the organisers.

In the 25<sup>th</sup> ECA at Greece 16 manuscripts were submitted and 11 were accepted for publication. Seventeen months after the congress, the proceedings (AraMit Vol. 40, Jan 2011) were published (109 pp). In the 26<sup>th</sup> ECA at Israel 15 manuscripts were submitted, and 11 were accepted for publication. Eleven months after the congress, the proceedings (AraMit Vol. 43, July 2012) were published (89 pp). THEO hoped that the 27<sup>th</sup> ECA proceedings will be published also after 11 months. In order to accomplish this, participants should submit the papers by 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2012.

AraMit is an open access journal, and all pdf's are available online. Since vol. 37 AraMit is included in "Scopus", and since Vol. 38 there is an "Online early system" before printing. Since Vol. 39 DOI-links are available for the references. The congress volumes are also online at ESA webpage.

### **Next meeting**

The Chairman then invited MARCO ISAIA to make a short presentation about the 28<sup>th</sup> ECA 2014 meeting in Torino, Italy, which will provisionally be held from 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August or 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September (there was no other offer for the 2014 meeting). Most of the members preferred 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September.

MARCO showed the location of Torino and the many possible air-connections. He explained that the meeting will provisionally be held in the *Baroque monastery* building of the *Department of Life Science and System Biology* in the Old Town of Torino. The building has 18 lecture halls with capacity of 10-180 participants, and is fully equipped with Wi-Fi. The building is next to another *Baroque* building, hosting the *Regional Museum of Natural Science*, and could be used for the social and night events. In 5 and 15 minutes walking distance there are two residence halls that can host 155 and 500 participants in single, double and triple rooms and mini apartments. In addition, at least 6 hotels and B&B in 5 minute walking distance. MARCO showed some further highlights of Italy and the natural beauty of the countryside, and suggested four different localities for the congress excursion. MARCO showed the possibilities for organiser staff and financial support.

The presentation was greeted with general acclaim.

The Chairman invited the President to deliver further announcements.

### **Moment of silence**

The President invited the participants to participate in a moment of silence in memory of two arachnologists that passed away recently: *ROD ALLISON* and *ALFRED F. MILLIDGE*.

### **Honorary Members**

The President presented one of the two new Honorary Members that were accepted last year, but was not present in the last meeting - SEPPA KOPONEN (FINLAND, 2011) and proposed two new Honorary Members: YAEL LUBIN (ISRAEL) and RUDY JOCQUÉ (BELGIUM). Both proposals were accepted to general acclaim.

### **Announcement**

The President asked the participants to obtain permission when posting photos of other participants on websites and especially on Facebook.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The President closed the meeting at 17:50 with a vote of thanks to MATJAŽ KUNTNER, MATJAŽ GREGORIČ and the rest of the organisation team for the 27<sup>th</sup> European Congress for hosting the present congress. This was accepted to general acclaim.

MATJAŽ KUNTNER, MATJAŽ GREGORIČ, in the name of the scientific committee, awarded the following students prizes for their presentations.

### **Systematics and Evolution**

First prize oral presentation: HENRIK KREHENWINKEL; Second prize oral presentation: ELISABETH LIPKE; Third prize oral presentation: MARIJA MAJER

First prize poster presentation: JANA PLÍŠKOVÁ; Second prize poster presentation: SUSANNE MEESE; Third prize poster presentation: CHENG-YA CHANG

### **Ecology and Behavior**

First prize oral presentation: KATRIN KUNZ; Second prize oral presentation: SHAZIA QUASIN; Third prize oral presentation: REINER NEUMANN

First prize poster presentation: URŠKA PRISTOVŠEK; Second prize poster  
presentation: HSIENCHUN LIAO; Third prize poster presentation: KLAAS WELKE

Efrat Gavish-Regev and Yael Lubin

Israel, 28.09.2012